

**REMARKS**

Claims 17 and 21-39 are now in this application. Claims 1-16, 19 and 20 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 17 and 18 are rejected. Claims 1-16, 19 and 20 are cancelled. Claim 18 is previously cancelled. New claims 21-39 are added.

Claims 21-39 are added and are submitted as patentable over the cited art of record. Independent claim 21 recites subject matter directed to providing a toy with an animal access region and an animal restricted region and handling the toy following the toy being picked up in the mouth of the pet by grasping by a user of the animal restricted region such that contact with saliva by the user is inhibited which, among other features recited therein, is not believed disclosed in the cited art in the manner as claimed. Independent claim 39 recites subject matter directed to providing a toy with an animal access region and an animal restricted region, allowing a pet to pick up the toy by gripping a naturally-accessed portion of the toy in the mouth of the pet while the toy is free of the hand of the user, and acquiring the toy by the user following the gripping of the toy in the mouth of the pet by grasping at least a portion of said animal restricted region by the hand of the user which, among other features recited therein, is not believed disclosed in the cited art in the manner as claimed.

Dependent claims 22-28 are patentable based on the subject matter recited therein in addition to the subject matter of claim 21.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence I. Wechsler", written in a cursive style.

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